

Bush and the Republican leadership have responded by cutting key student aid programs. Just last week, House Republicans demanded that we finance President Bush's tax cut on the backs of students by cutting \$4.7 billion in aid to student borrowers. This could force the typical borrower to pay an additional \$170 in student loan taxes over the life of their loans.

This is unacceptable, and we must do better by delivering sound legislation that helps Americans to make the college dream a viable reality.

The College Affordability and Lifetime Savings Act will help ease the burden of student loan debt for millions of Americans. The Act will change the current student loan tax deduction benefit to a tax credit—which will deliver a larger rebate on the interest paid on student loans to borrowers, particularly those who are struggling the most to make ends meet. The savings for the typical borrower who is earning \$20,000 a year will more than triple, to \$347, in their first year of repayment. The Act will also help expand this benefit to more middle class families, allowing them to claim rebates, too.

I urge you to support the College Affordability and Lifetime Savings Act as a means to ensure that a college investment remains the investment of a lifetime for all Americans.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, my Colleagues and Friends of Taiwan, I want to take a moment to place into the RECORD a traditional oral expression or toast to the long-standing relationship between the United States and Taiwan. The republic of China's Twin Oaks Estate here in Washington, D.C., has been home to nine Ambassadors, as well as a venue for receiving guests of the Republic of China's Representative in the United States. It is a symbol of the abiding friendship between our two nations. Over the last six decades, countless Americans and Chinese friends and Ambassadors have met with members of Congress at Twin Oaks.

On the south side of this wonderful mansion stand one hundred plum trees. The plum blossom, the national flower of The Republic of China, can withstand below freezing temperatures. After enduring this type of physical duress during the winter, in early spring the dark pink plum blossom emerges and blooms, demonstrating a glorious vitality. And so it is with the relationship between Taiwan and the United States of America. No matter how challenging the problems are now or will be; our time-honored relationship will continue to blossom and display this type of resilience. In a larger sense, it will spring eternally regardless of geopolitical pressures.

So Mr. Speaker, the enduring strength of the plum blossom at the Twin Oaks Estate symbolizes our lasting friendship, which has benefited both of our nations for six decades.

IN MEMORY OF AHMAD R. OLOMI

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to his country and community was extraordinary. Orange County, California, was indeed fortunate to have such a dynamic and dedicated community leader who willingly and unselfishly gave his time and talents to make his community a better place in which to live and work. The individual of whom I speaking is Ahmad Rateb Olomi. He was unexpectedly and tragically taken in an airplane accident over the Arabian Sea on Monday, February 24, 2003, at the age of 45.

Mr. Olomi was born in Afghanistan, and earned his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Engineering and Technology in Lahore, Pakistan. He moved to the United States in 1980. He was hired by Orange County in 1984 and shortly thereafter became a naturalized United States citizen. He worked his way up from Engineering Technician to the position of Senior Civil Engineer. Some of the more notable projects he worked on were Seven Oaks Dam, the Santa Ana River Mainstream Project, and the Laguna Canyon Road State Route 133 realignment. Over his 19 years of service to Orange County, Mr. Olomi developed himself into one of the County's most talented and valued professionals.

In addition to his love for the United States and his community, he never forgot his original homeland. On the day of the tragedy, Mr. Olomi was on a six-month leave of absence from the County of Orange traveling with the Afghan Minister of Mines and Industries to help with the rebuilding of Afghanistan, and the construction of a transnational pipeline project that would pump natural gas and oil from Turkmenistan across Afghanistan and into Pakistan.

Mr. Olomi was also a dedicated family man. He is survived by his wife Roya and children, Yusef and Sahar. He is remembered by his family and friends as a man admired for his integrity, honesty, intelligence and selfless commitment to others. My thoughts and prayers go out to them for their loss.

Mr. Speaker, looking back at Mr. Olomi's life, we see a man dedicated to his family, community, adopted country and original homeland—an American and Afghani whose service led to the betterment of those who had the privilege to come in contact or work with him. Honoring Mr. Olomi's memory is the least we can do today for all that he gave over his lifetime.

A TRIBUTE TO CAROL YING

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Carol Ying in recognition of her dedication to improving the educational opportunities for the students in her community and enlightening them with her teachings.

Born in Jamaica, West Indies, Carol immigrated to the United States in January 1985. She enrolled in the fifth grade at a private catholic school called St. Augustine-St. Francis Xavier where she won an award for the fifth grader of the year. After three years at the school, she wanted to explore a public school and enrolled in Samuel J. Tilden High School. Again, she excelled in her academics and received a PTA award given to the most outstanding high school freshmen. Her achievements at the High School allowed her to graduate within three years and attend Long Island University. She was a Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) student at the institution.

Carol was always fascinated with mathematics and showed exceptional ability in the subject. Although she started out as a Computer Science major, she would eventually change her major to Mathematics Education. During the summer of freshman year, she discovered that she had a passion for teaching mathematics after teaching a class of high school students. Carol was inspired by the many great math teachers she has encountered in her academic career. After graduating from Long Island University, Carol returned home to teach mathematics at Samuel J. Tilden High School. During her seven years at Tilden High School, she served as a dean for a year as well.

She continued to challenge herself by enrolling in a Master's program at CUNY Brooklyn College, receiving a degree in Mathematics Education. Later, she furthered her academic credentials when she earned a Certificate in Administration and Supervision. In the process, her supervisors and colleagues, who saw her capacity as a leader, encouraged her to do more than teach. This inspired her to pursue a position as an administrator.

Carol is currently working in the New York City public school system as an Assistant Principal at South Shore High School. She is also in charge of supervising the Mathematics Department. Carol is very passionate about her job and enjoys working with students and faculty to advance students' achievements in Mathematics.

Mr. Speaker, Carol Ying is committed to increasing the educational opportunities of members of her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING MAXINE MACHADO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maxine Machado on the occasion of her being selected as a recipient for the 2002 Common Threads Awards. Common Threads is a joint venture of the Agricultural Education Foundation, California State University, Fresno's College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and AG ONE Foundation. The award is given to women who have made a remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement of their communities with their time and/or contributions. Honorees must live in Fresno, Kings, Madera,